

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Summary

Claims 1-6, 8-13, and 15-19 are pending in the application. In the Office Action mailed July 26, 2005, each of claims 1-6, 8-13, and 15-19 were rejected. The issues in the Office Action are:

- Claims 1, 8, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by *Sebastian et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,822,206, hereinafter *Sebastian*).
- Claims 2, 4-6, 9, 11-13, 16, and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Sebastian* in view of *Thackston* (U.S. Patent No. 6,295,513).
- Claims 3, 10, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Sebastian* in view of *Thackston*, further in view of *Twigg* (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0012007).

Applicant respectfully traverses the claims rejections and requests reconsideration in view of the arguments below.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 8, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by *Sebastian*.

For a reference to be anticipatory, the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *See Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ.2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Also, the claim elements must be arranged as required by the claim. *See M.P.E.P.* § 2131 (citing *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ.2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990)). Applicant respectfully asserts that the *Sebastian* reference fails to meet these requirements.

Claim 1 defines a computer system comprising a question software interface for capturing a question in a question object, an answer software interface for capturing an answer in an answer object that is linked to the selected question object, and a decision

software interface for capturing a decision in a decision object that is linked to the selected question object. *Sebastian* teaches a material selector module whose output includes “a list of material properties and associated threshold values for a part....” *See Sebastian* at col. 15, lines 32-35. *Sebastian* does not teach an answer object that is linked to the selected question object. Nor does *Sebastian* teach a decision object that is linked to a selected question object. *Sebastian* further teaches that the material selector module “can provide its output in the template notation of the present invention.” *See Sebastian* at col. 15, lines 35-37. However, the feature template of *Sebastian* does not comprise an answer object that is linked to a selected question object. *See id.* at col. 11, line 35-col. 12, line 46. Nor does the feature template of *Sebastian* comprise a decision object that is linked to a selected question object. Accordingly, *Sebastian* does not teach at least the claim 1 limitations of an answer object that is linked to a selected question object or a decision object that is linked to a selected question object. Thus, *Sebastian* does not anticipate claim 1.

Claim 8 defines a method for capturing decision-related data comprising capturing a question in a question object, capturing an answer in an answer object that is linked to the selected question object, and capturing a decision in a decision object that is linked to the selected question object. *Sebastian* teaches a material selector module whose output includes “a list of material properties and associated threshold values for a part....” *See Sebastian* at col. 15, lines 32-35. *Sebastian* does not teach capturing an answer in an answer object that is linked to the selected question object. Nor does *Sebastian* teach capturing a decision in a decision object that is linked to a selected question object. *Sebastian* further teaches that the material selector module “can provide its output in the template notation of the present invention.” *See Sebastian* at col. 15, lines 35-37. However, the feature template of *Sebastian* does not comprise an answer object that is linked to a selected question object. *See id.* at col. 11, line 35-col. 12, line 46. Nor does the feature template of *Sebastian* comprise a decision object that is linked to a selected question object. Accordingly, *Sebastian* cannot teach at least the claim 1 limitations of capturing an answer in an answer object that is linked to a selected question object or capturing a decision in a decision object that is linked to a selected question object. Thus, *Sebastian* does not anticipate claim 8.

Claim 15 defines a computer readable storage medium tangibly embodying program instructions implementing a method comprising capturing a question in a question object,

capturing an answer in an answer object that is linked to the selected question object, and capturing a decision in a decision object that is linked to the selected question object. *Sebastian* teaches a material selector module whose output includes “a list of material properties and associated threshold values for a part....” *See Sebastian* at col. 15, lines 32-35. *Sebastian* does not teach capturing an answer in an answer object that is linked to the selected question object. Nor does *Sebastian* teach capturing a decision in a decision object that is linked to a selected question object. *Sebastian* further teaches that the material selector module “can provide its output in the template notation of the present invention.” *See Sebastian* at col. 15, lines 35-37. However, the feature template of *Sebastian* does not comprise an answer object that is linked to a selected question object. *See id.* at col. 11, line 35-col. 12, line 46. Nor does the feature template of *Sebastian* comprise a decision object that is linked to a selected question object. Accordingly, *Sebastian* cannot teach at least the claim 15 limitations of capturing an answer in an answer object that is linked to a selected question object or capturing a decision in a decision object that is linked to a selected question object. Thus, *Sebastian* does not anticipate claim 15.

Applicant specifically traverses the assertions by the Examiner regarding question objects under heading “Response to Arguments” in view of the arguments presented above. Applicant also respectfully notes that the Examiner has not responded to Applicant’s previous arguments made in the Amendment mailed April 28, 2005 on page 8 regarding answer objects and decision objects and requests that these previously presented arguments also be considered by the Examiner.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), three basic criteria must be met. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2143. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Without conceding the first or second criteria, Applicant respectfully asserts that the references do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

Claims 2, 4-6, 9, 11-13, 16, and 18-19

Claims 2, 4-6, 9, 11-13, 16, and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Sebastian* in view of *Thackston*. Each of claims 2, 4-6, 9, 11-13, 16, and 18-19 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 8, or 15, and comprises all limitations of the base claim from which it depends. As shown above in relation to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), *Sebastian* does not teach all limitations of claims 1, 8, and 15. Accordingly, *Sebastian* does not teach or suggest all limitations of claims 2, 4-6, 9, 11-13, 16, and 18-19. *Thackston* does not cure the deficiencies of *Sebastian* with respect to claims 2, 4-6, 9, 11-13, 16, and 18-19. *Thackston* is merely relied upon for disclosing “data neutrality” in a “virtual collaborative environment.” See *Thackston* at col. 5, lines 47-51. Accordingly, *Sebastian* in view of *Thackston* does not teach or suggest all limitations of claims 2, 4-6, 9, 11-13, 16, and 18-19. Thus, claims 2, 4-6, 9, 11-13, 16, and 18-19 are not obvious over the cited references.

Claims 3, 10, and 17

Claims 3, 10, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Sebastian* in view of *Thackston*, further in view of *Twigg*. Each of claims 3, 10, and 17 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 8, or 15, and comprises all limitations of the base claim from which it depends. As shown above in relation to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), *Sebastian* does not teach all limitations of claims 1, 8, and 15. Accordingly, *Sebastian* does not teach or suggest all limitations of claims 3, 10, and 17. Neither *Thackston* nor *Twigg* cure the deficiencies of *Sebastian* with respect to claims 3, 10, and 17. *Thackston* is merely relied upon for disclosing “data neutrality” in a “virtual collaborative environment.” See *Thackston* at col. 5, lines 47-51. *Twigg* is merely relied upon for disclosing multiple databases for design files. See *Twigg* at paragraph 0038. Accordingly, *Sebastian* in view of *Thackston* further in view of *Twigg* do not teach or suggest all limitations of claims 3, 10, and 17. Thus, claims 3, 10, and 17 are not obvious over the cited references.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Application No. 09/680,604
Reply to Office Action of

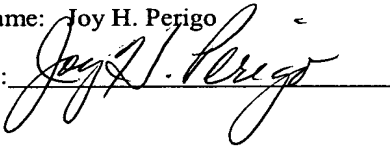
Docket No.: 10003655-1

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 100036550-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. EV482725662US in an envelope addressed to: M/S Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P O Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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